

A Spellbound Tail

By Jessica50

"...and you all simply *have* to be there! We've worked so hard on this play and have made a few special adjustments that it'd be a shame if any of you missed my starring performance!" Victoria boasted, the small crowd around her enthralled by the idea of watching her act. Across the library, Felicia glared at her while crossing her arms, puffing her cheeks in annoyance before grabbing her friend and pulling her around a corner.

"I *hate* her," she said, clenching her fists.

Her friend Clair did little more than shrug. "I know. You've told me that a lot recently."

"That irritating cretin just gets whatever she wants because she knows she can just flaunt her popularity! *'Look at me, I'm Vicky, I'm just soooo perfect and you should all love me and give me your undying attention.'* Bleh."

"Felicia it's not that bad, right? I mean you got the second most important role, isn't that good enough?"

Felicia slowly turned her head towards Clair, stuck with a dumbfounded look.

"G-good enough? You think I'm happy that she probably bribed whoever made the final casting decision?"

"Well no, but--"

"But nothing! She has the acting skill of a wet bag, I deserved that spot fair and square were it not for her lust for attention!"

"I know she's insufferable, but it's probably best for you to just let it go. Staying angry about it isn't going to make you feel any better and...are you listening?"

Felicia was looking blankly at the books lining the bottom of the shelf they were standing next to, crouching to get a better look at their names before looking back up at Clair. "Has our school always had an occult section here?"

"We almost never go to the library, how am I supposed to know what random books they pick up and throw onto the shelves?"

Felicia partly pulled out books one by one and pushed them back until she reached a thick book with a leather cover. Intrigued, she grabbed it and stood up to take a quick look through it. Upon opening up the book, a flash of

warmth spread through her body and lingered in her hands, prompting a smile of surprise. She walked over to a small table nearby and motioned Clair to follow her. "C'mon, you gotta look at this!"

Clair slowly blinked and followed her friend, sitting down. "You don't seriously believe whatever is in there, right?"

Snapping the book shut, Felicia handed it to Clair. The same warmth radiated through her body once she touched the book, confusing her before Felicia eagerly grabbed the book back. "How did it do that!?"

"I dunno, but no normal book can do that!" She set the book down and opened it up between the two of them so they could both read the pages.

Turning to a random page, large paragraphs described the stances and phrases needed to perform spells listed throughout the book. Flipping through the next few pages, Felicia developed a widening grin as an idea raced through her head. "You know what would be the greatest thing ever?"

"Having classes get cancelled?"

"No, even better. We can use something in here to completely humiliate Victoria in front of everybody!" Felicia skipped through the pages until reaching a section on "Alterations", finding it hard to suppress her giggling.

"Okay okay, think of something we can change on her body to embarrass her and ruin her reputation."

"I don't know...turn her green?"

"She could cover herself up with more clothes too easily, we'd need something more."

"Make her ears bigger? I guess that would look kind of silly."

Felicia tapped her chin. "She might be able to pass that off as part of a costume for the play. Gotta think of something she cannot keep hidden or convince people is normal."

"Look, I don't have a vendetta against her. You should try coming up with something if you want to embarrass her so badly. I doubt that book is even going to do anything."

Ignoring the last part of the comment, Felicia kept scanning the pages looking for the most amusing form of punishment for her rival. "I got it! I'm gonna make her grow a tail. There's no way she can convince people that it's just a costume, and it'll look humiliating to wear one. It's perfect!"

Felicia grabbed the book and stood up, taking an aggressive stance while pointing her finger at Victoria. She took a deep breath and paused for a moment to think of how she wanted to word the spell, smiling widely. "Sly as a fox and perfect without fail, all will watch you grow a new tail."

A bright white spark emanated from the tip of her finger before fizzling out, sending a soothing warm glow back throughout Felicia's body. The pair watched Victoria continue to boast and receive praise in front of the amassing crowd of students, her face unchanging for the few seconds after the spell.

"I told you that book wouldn't work," Clair said, faintly chuckling.

"M-maybe it did! What does growing a tail even feel like? Maybe it doesn't hurt and she doesn't feel anything--you don't know!" She sat back down with the book and flipped back through the pages for any additional spells she could attempt to use to help her.

"Just give up, Felicia. You got screwed out of your place in the play, acting desperate by believing some magical nonsense in a book is just going to disappoint you further."

"I've found something, just give me one more chance, okay? Cause I think, maybe, I only gave her a really small tail. If I make it keep growing, she can't hide it, right?"

"By all means, if you think you can make the tail she never grew become bigger, go ahead and try it," Clair said as she rolled her eyes, waiting for Felicia to fail.

"Okay, let's try this one..." she said as she stood back up, taking the same position as she had a minute earlier. "Your arrogance and cruelty make you feel stronger, now hear the applause and your tail will grow longer."

Once more another spark shot from the tip of her finger, dissipating as quickly as it had appeared. The same warmth flowed through her body, lingering a few seconds more than it had after the last spell.

"That's the best you could think of?" Clair said, shaking her head. "Just put the book back, you sound ridiculous."

"It might have worked! Come on, let's get a bit closer to her to see if she realized what happened. I mean, you saw the spark thing, right? There's no way that would happen unless I did these right!"

Clair sighed and followed her friend towards the front of the library, expecting next to nothing to happen. "What needs to happen?" she whispered while Victoria was still in the midst of her ceaseless boasting.

"Just clap whenever the group gets impressed by something she says. Loud enough for her to hear but not so that she actually looks at us."

Within a minute of Victoria's continuous self praise, the crowd of a dozen students began murmuring after she boasted about the many plays she had performed the starring role in. As the group conversed with each other and with Victoria, Clair made a quiet and half-hearted set of claps. Standing next to her, Felicia felt a chill run through her head and slowly snake its way down her spine, her body shivering. Once the feeling reached the base of her spine, it lingered for a few seconds until it formed a small lump. Her hips twitched as the lump sprouted fur and gradually extended to a few inches long before flicking side to side in her pants. Felicia patted the spot behind her once the cold energy retreated from her spine, the lump reflexively swishing back and forth.

"Well look at that, nothing happened," Clair said, turning to her friend.

"Something wrong? You look stunned by something."

Felicia grabbed her friend's hand and dragged her back to the table, well out of earshot of anyone else in the room. "I-I just grew a tail," she said, worry in her tone.

Clair muffled a laugh. "Come on, there's no way that book actually--"

Felicia moved close to Clair, turning around and pointing behind her. No longer were the pants perfectly covering Felicia's rounded rear, as upon leaning closer Clair could make out a faint bulge at the base of Felicia's spine. The bulge wiggled slightly as Felicia's tail moved around from within her pants. "You managed to curse yourself?"

"I don't understand! I followed the instructions perfectly, and..." she trailed off, interrupted by a warning bell signaling classes starting within a few minutes. She brought her hands to her head in panic. "This was supposed to happen to her, not me!"

"Felicia it's just a small tail, it's not really worth worrying about. Ain't nobody gonna see it unless they're hugging your butt, and even then it doesn't look that weird."

"What if it grows bigger? That's what I was trying to curse Victoria with, so it probably happened to me!" Felicia grabbed the spellbook and tucked it away inside her bag. "Okay, um, I'll spend our first class looking up a way to remove the spell. That...shouldn't be too hard, right?"

Clair shrugged without saying a word, standing up to follow her friend towards their first class.

Arriving on the upper floor of their school, Felicia and Clair took seats in the back of their classroom, as isolated from the rest of the students as they could make themselves. Immediately after sitting down, Felicia opened up the magical book and scoured through it as quickly as she could to find a spell that could revert the alteration behind her.

"Good morning everyone," their teacher said, walking into the room as the bell rang. She loudly clasped her hands together and rubbed them. "It's the end of the week, and I want you all to complete a worksheet on the historical topics we've covered so far. If you wish, you can split into pairs to work on this."

Felicia gripped the desk tight as a rush of cold air blew into her ears and rippled down her spine. Within seconds she felt her tail grow faintly larger, beginning to create a creaking noise while the process was in action. Her tail twitched once it ceased its growth, feeling the fur upon it grow longer before the chill dissipated. She shifted uncomfortably in her seat, the tail making it difficult to lean back. Felicia forced a smile as she grabbed the sheets from her teacher and handed one to her friend. "Can I just copy your answers in a bit? I think I found a counterspell that'll work on me."

"Alright. You should see your face whenever that curse kicks in--you sorta stare into space with horror."

"You don't even know. It feels like someone is grabbing my tail and pulling it to make it longer. But that won't matter in a moment cause this should get rid of it completely." Felicia leaned forward, reaching an arm behind her and placing a finger on the bulge. She hesitated for a moment, slight fear from feeling how it had gotten bigger, but proceeded with attempting to cast the spell. "Disappear from sight now not later, remove this tail as swift as water."

Clair looked up from the papers she was copying answers too. "'Later' isn't pronounced anything like..." she said, staring at Felicia almost dumbfounded.

"Did it work?"

"No, but um, it might need a bit to kick into effect?" Felicia said, nervously laughing.

"Right, well, now that your spell mentions it, I could use some water. I'll be right back."

Once Clair had stood up and began walking away, Felicia leaned forward against the table and rocked it with her hands as another fierce chill ran through her body and down to her rear. She grit her teeth as her tail grew a few inches more, creaking again as it became thicker at the base of her spine and strengthened the pain of the growth. Once it had stopped, her tail reflexively tried to swish back and forth, the slowed movement of her tail becoming difficult while compressed in her pants. Felicia panicked, trying to determine what the cause was in their silent classroom, anxiously tapping the lump in her pants.

Clair returned a minute later, sitting down and stretching before noticing that Felicia was looking more worried than before. "That's the face of someone realizing they have no idea how to control magic."

Felicia shook her head. "It grew bigger..."

"Well, yeah," Clair said as she opened up the bottle. "Clapping isn't exactly a rare thing for someone to do in a crowd."

"It wa-wasn't that! Nobody has done anything besides talk with each other. The moment you got up to leave my tail grew a little, and I don't understand why!"

"Don't look at me, I didn't do anything to affect you. All I did was leave for a minute to get water and come back."

"I just find it a little weird that--urk!" Felicia stuttered, clenching her fists. Clair could hear a strange creaking from behind Felicia as the tail painfully pulled out inches further. Felicia's body trembled as part of her tail thickened, coated with fur that she couldn't see, until it stopped growing and left her with a building pressure within her pants.

The bell rang and students began filtering out of the classroom, leaving Felicia and Clair alone once the room was vacant.

"You made it worse!?" Clair exclaimed.

"I-I--" Felicia stumbled, pausing to run her mind back through the previous instances of growth before pointing at the water bottle. "My tail only grew when you mentioned that. It can't be coincidence."

"So...you messed up so badly that any time you hear someone talking about, uh...that, your tail is just gonna grow more?"

"Seems that way," Felicia said as she stood up to tuck the book in her bag.

"Oh geez..." muttered Clair the moment she saw her friend stand up.

Felicia stood paralyzed for a moment, realizing what her friend was staring at. "Oh no, how big is it?"

Clair leaned closer to stare at Felicia's butt, the rounded bulge protruding nearly three inches outward and generally unchanging in its size as the tail struggled to move on its own. "It's a lot more noticeable now, especially since you keep moving it like you're trying to draw attention."

"Yeah I can't really stop my tail from squirming around." Felicia paused, thinking to herself. "It really hurts just keeping it compressed, can you help me adjust it for a second? At least then if it keeps growing it should hurt a little less." Felicia lowered the back of her pants just enough for her tail to unfurl and stretch to its full length, excitedly swishing around against her will as Clair stared with interest.

"Your fox tail is so cute!" she said, grabbing Felicia's foot-long tail as it flicked around. She ran her hands through the light orange fur along the tail, smoothing it out after it had been rustled within the pants, and rubbed the white tip which caused Felicia to quiver.

"C-cu-cut it out!" Felicia quipped, her face turning pink as she glared at Clair. "Fiiiine, what do you want me to do?"

"Just, I dunno, fold my tail so it doesn't look as big?"

Clair struggled to keep her grip on Felicia's tail as it tried to jerk itself out of her hands, tickling Felicia. After a few seconds she managed to fold it twice over and placed the tail against Felicia's body, causing her to pull her pants back up to conceal the abnormality. "There, all set for now."

"Does it still look bad?"

Clair shrugged and started to walk out of the room. "The bulge is still kinda noticeable but I made it smaller."

"That's fine," Felicia said, picking the spellbook back out of her bag and walking alongside Clair with it. "It doesn't hurt as much now. I've got whole pages of spell attempts I can use on myself still, hopefully one of these will work."

Remaining silent as the pair walked through the crowded hallways, Clair piped up once they reached their lockers among a smaller and quieter crowd.

"Felicia, are you sure you wanna do that? Seems like all you can do is give your tail more reasons to grow bigger."

Felicia puffed her cheeks as she opened her locker. "I know! But it's *probably* gonna grow a lot more today as is. I figure if I keep trying spells, one of them has to work and make it disappear before my tail grows out of control."

"And if not?"

Felicia cupped the bulge with one hand while holding onto the spine of the book with the other. "I'll make something work, I'm sure of it." She took a deep breath and thought of a new rhyme. "Before everyone sees and has a laugh, reduce the size of this tail by half."

"At least that actually rhymed," Clair mused as a flash of warmth shot up Felicia's spine.

Sighing, Felicia slammed her locker shut. "Yeah that didn't work. I figured using something that only reduced its size would be easier to pull off, but I guess not."

A minute passed as Felicia continued scanning through the pages, startled by the sound of a familiar voice. "And over there you'll see someone who thought they could steal the lead role from me."

Felicia snapped the book shut and turned around, staring at Victoria only a few feet away. "Is that a problem?"

"The only problem is that a pathetic nerd like you thought that you were better than me," Victoria boasted, her friend next to her laughing at the comment and giving her a high five.

"Clearly I'm al-almost..." Felicia stuttered, digging her nails into the cover of the book as the warmth drained from her head and chilled her body.

"Almost a complete loser? Cause I'd agree with you on that."

Clair was confused for a moment as to why her friend wasn't defending herself, only realizing what was happening when she heard creaking come from Felicia's pants. She glanced down and noticed the bulge expanding, growing until it was slightly larger than before she had adjusted the tail. Felicia quivered her hips as the bulge wiggled around, her tail gradually thickening from its base to the center and the golden orange fur along it becoming longer.

"I'll take that silence as submission that you know you're inferior to me. But it's okay--you'll get a good view of the back of a lead star later." Victoria pompously raised her head and left with her friend, smug after crushing Felicia's ego.

Felicia loudly exhaled after holding her breath for the interaction, panting after having to fight through the pain to keep a straight face. "What did she do!?"

"Acted like a smug jerk? She was doing that the whole time, shouldn't your tail have grown a lot more if that was the case?"

"That's what I thought! She had to have said something else to cause it, but I just don't know what." Felicia sighed again and glumly started walking towards their next class. "Let's just go...I'll try something else once we're there."

As with the previous class, the two friends picked seats in the back corner, isolated from everyone else. Their teacher hadn't arrived yet, class not starting for several minutes. Felicia wasted no time opening the book again to continue her desperate hunt for a spell that could function properly.

"So what was your plan, exactly?" Clair whispered. "I mean, I thought your tail was really cute. If I thought that, then surely Victoria could have convinced everyone who saw her that it was cute too. And, you know...*not real*."

"I'm aware this turned out to be a horrible idea, thanks. Cause sure, in hindsight, it's easy to see that she could have used anything I cursed her with to make herself look more appealing."

"Should have just made her green like I originally said. That ain't a cute color." Felicia groaned as she resumed perusing the book. Their teacher walked in after several minutes, ready to begin class. "Alright, settle down everybody. Remember that your environment fundamentals test is going to be next week, and a number of you have expressed that you aren't confident on all the topics." Their teacher stood to the side, pointing to a diagram on the board. "I've made some notes for those of you who need them, and I would advise everyone to make a copy of this water cycle diagram as it will come up next week."

Clair whipped her head towards Felicia, who was grasping her face with her hands and shuddering. Feeling as if a pair of hands were pulling it, her tail painfully grew a little further. When the growth subsided, Clair continued staring at the enlarged bulge as the creaking noise was replaced by the sound of Felicia's pants straining to contain her expanding tail. The bulge was doing little more than wobble back and forth, her pants so tight that her compressed tail had little room to move.

"I gotta do something *now*," Felicia said, running her finger through one of the pages. "This thing really hurts. Damn I really hope this spell is the one that fixes all this..." She muttered, grabbing the large lump on her pants with her

hand again and attempting to think of a creative rhyme. "Believe that this is not a lie, I wish to wave this tail goodbye." Her hand glowed as her tail radiated warmth once more, yet remained exactly the same size.

"Felicia, you really need to consider trying something else," Clair worried. "At the rate you're going, anything people say is gonna make your tail grow. It'll be as big as the school if you keep botching these spells."

"I can't try something else! I either do nothing and my tail grows, keep messing up these stupid spells and make my tail grow faster, or I actually get rid of it. I'm kinda screwed unless I somehow fix it."

Clair tapped her chin. "Or you could look at it this way. You're not gonna back down from performing in the play, right?"

Felicia shook her head. "If I did, that wench would never let me hear the end of it."

"Okay, so, speaking from what will *realistically* happen, you can perform in the play with a modestly large but still concealable tail. Or, if you're dead set on getting rid of it, you'll end up performing with a monstrously huge tail that you'll never keep a secret."

"I-it can't really keep growing, surely. There's just gotta be a limit."

"Two hours ago, neither of us conceived the idea of someone spontaneously growing a tail, yet here we are. I guarantee it could end up as big as the city if you keep stockpiling these effects."

Felicia's heart sunk as she leaned back and groaned in pain from pressing against the tail. A flicker of determination lingered within her as she stared blankly at the wall, writing off what her friend had advised. Her tail was gradually becoming unbearable regardless of how much she affected it, and the only outcomes for the play would be to endure the alteration or remove it.

Their teacher finished talking to a separate group of students before moving towards Felicia and Clair's table. "Do you two need help with anything?"

Felicia snapped out of her aimless staring, looking up in confusion. "Huh? What do you mean?"

"The two of you sounded like you were arguing about something in the current chapter. Are there any questions you have about it?"

"Oh no, no. We were just talking about something else, everything's completely fine with us right now," Felicia lied.

"Well if you have any questions, just let me know," their teacher said, walking away.

"We should probably--" Clair began to say, interrupted by Felicia rocking the table with her hands and breathing rapidly. Clair leaned to the side to stare at Felicia's bulge begin to expand a little further, the pressure becoming too great for the pants that several seams popped off and formed small holes that were quickly filled in by small strands of orange fur trying to release itself.

Felicia leaned forward and sighed, trying not to move the lower half of her body any further. "Can you think of what I said this time to cause it?"

Clair thought to herself for a moment, distracted by the sound of the stressed fabric. "Well you lied to her, and that silly rhyme you made had the word lie in it. Hasn't that been consistent with everything you've messed up so far?"

"That is so much worse than simple words!" Felicia moaned. "I was just picking spells that sounded nice, I never considered that the wording would affect me!"

"Well, not to panic you further, but I can kinda see your tail right now."

Felicia gently rubbed her fingers across the bulge, shaking when she touched the few holes that torn open. "What do I do!? It's going to break out if I hear something that makes it grow bigger!"

Clair pulled out a small pouch from her bag and opened it up, revealing a kit of sewing tools. "Can you turn a bit to the side? I can quickly patch up some of those holes and try to let you survive a couple more growths before you have to think of a new way to hide this thing."

Felicia stood up and moved herself to the side, shifting herself enough that the holes on her pants tore a little further, more orange fur pushing through.

"Please hurry!"

Threading one of the needles, Clair carefully began mending the largest hole in the center of the bulge. "It's a good thing you haven't used a spell where it grows whenever you freak out."

"I just gotta remember to not use that word when trying to--ack! Don't stab my tail!"

Clair held the needle with her teeth as she tied sides of a hole together, fixing it. "Well it's not my fault you keep movin' your tail around while I fix your pants." She pressed against the protruding fur to resume mending, causing Felicia's arms to twitch.

"Thinking about what you said, shouldn't it be safe to keep trying new spells? I just gotta use really rare words and actions in the book so that in case I fail, it won't really impact how fast my tail grows."

"Or you could think about the other thing I said and just give up trying to get rid of it right now. Would be a lot easier when you did it at home, alone." Clair wrapped up her threading and tucked away her kit. "Your pants look kinda normal now. At least your tail should stay hidden a little longer."

Half an hour passed in silence, the two spending the time studying until Felicia became restless and scoured the spellbook once more. "But there's so many key words that can't backfire on me! Okay okay, listen to this, you'll understand." She carefully grasped the bulge without touching the quick patchwork Clair had performed. "Just like how water is blue, removing this tail must be true."

Clair wasn't watching her friend fail again, instead looking through her class book. "You should have used orange," she quipped.

"Nothing rhymes with that!" Felicia sat upright again on the edge of her seat.

"But it was worth a shot, right? Nobody just randomly says colors."

"For your sake, I hope that's not the most obscure thing you could think of."

Their teacher stood in front of the class and clapped loudly to gather everyone's attention. "Alright everyone, class is almost over. Keep in mind when studying this weekend that I'm still available to answer questions on any subject you're still unsure about."

Felicia buried her face in her hands, gloomily accepting the pain she was enduring. She could feel her tail pressing further and further against her pants, pushing them to their absolute limit as the bulge became nearly a foot long on its own. The hasty patchwork Clair had performed was holding, albeit barely, as the stress of the fabric was almost deafening for her. It would be good enough to walk through the hallway without a hair of fur revealed, yet she certainly felt that were it to grow any longer, her pants were ready to tear apart. She stood up carefully along with the rest of the class, trying to keep her tail as steady and immobile as possible.

Clair rubbed Felicia's shoulder and leaned to whisper to her. "I've got an idea, just follow me after class. Use your bag to keep the bulge concealed."

Felicia slowly navigated the crowded hallway, looking around in paranoia every few seconds to try and spot anybody that was staring at her. She lost track of her friend several times, keeping a steady pace to avoid throwing off her tail's positioning.

"Quick, get in here," Clair said once she caught up, motioning towards a door in a secluded part of the hallway meant only for faculty. They looked around for a moment, checking if any teachers were watching them, before rushing inside the room and locking the door.

"....the costume storeroom?" Felicia said after a light was flicked on. "I forgot this was where they kept it. What did you drag me here for?"

"Well I thought we could find for you a dress or something to wear the rest of the day that would cover up your tail. Unless you'd rather walk around awkwardly with it bundled in those broken pants."

"No! No, no, you have the right idea. Anything to get me through the day."

"It's a bit cramped in here, but you should be able to find something you can wear," Clair said as she began to laugh. "You've really done a number on yourself."

"Shut up, it's not fu-f-unny..." Felicia stammered, dropping to her knees. The creaking of her tail pulling further outward was overshadowed by the near deafening sound of the seams on her pants splitting off, the work Clair had made being destroyed in seconds. The small holes reappeared, tearing further as large tufts of fur poked out of them.

"Oh no, one of your spells mentioned laughing, didn't it?" Clair said, feeling bad for her friend.

"Yes! I'm in pain, how can you find this funny!?" Felicia growled. Her body shook in frustration, the holes in her pants tearing a little further.

Their argument was interrupted by a teacher knocking on the door. "Are the two of you still in there?"

"Y-yes, we are. Is that okay?" Clair said, Felicia too occupied with looking at her pants to answer.

"What are you doing in there? Nobody should be in costume storage until later this afternoon."

"Um, I--" Clair stammered, thinking of how to deflect the teacher. "We were told to make sure several costumes were in here, we'll be done in a couple minutes."

"Well be sure to hurry up, neither of you should be staying in there for long," the teacher said, the sound of footsteps moving away being heard a moment later. Clair covered her mouth in surprise after reflecting on what she had said, looking at her friend. Felicia bore a face of betrayal, wishing she could grab her friend in frustration.

"Gyhhh!" Felicia yelped, falling forward onto her hands and knees. She waved her butt back and forth, gradually shaking it faster as her tail grew ever further. Felicia moaned in pain, lowering the front half of her body and raising her rear as the pressure built up, the fabric ripping apart quicker every second. Her weakened pants finally unable to sustain itself any longer, her tail shredded through the openings and formed a massive hole for its escape, shooting out to its full length at over two feet long. Felicia sighed in relief at the growth stopping and her tail finally freeing itself from its painfully compressed form. Clair walked behind Felicia as she kept her head against the floor to catch her breath, examining the tail closer compared to when she had last seen it an hour ago. Beyond just its extended length, Felicia's tail was considerably thicker from the center back to her spine, the base of the tail nearly three inches wide. Multiple streaks of white fur had appeared leading from the white tip back towards her spine, forming several swirling patterns along her tail. Felicia's tail appeared mostly disheveled from its compression, prompting Clair to smooth it out while waiting for her friend to respond. She ran her hand through the tail, marveling at how thick the fur had become, as she smoothed out all the outstanding tufts.

"You really like touching my tail, huh?" Felicia said as she sat back up and slowly rose to her feet.

"I can't resist, it's just so fluffy and huggable right now!" she exclaimed, making Felicia groan in frustration. "You should really look at the bright side of this--if your tail *does* grow a lot bigger, you can use it as a really comfy chair!"

"Clair, it's a tail," Felicia said, staring sternly. "It's an embarrassing alteration, and I'm not keen on the idea of keeping it stuck to my butt."

"It's attached to your spine."

Felicia waved her arms around, annoyed. "Whatever! Look--just, *dresses*. I kinda can't walk around with this thing now that my pants are ruined, so I hope you can help me out here."

Clair walked around the storeroom, cramped by shelves of costumes and outfits. She spent several minutes pulling a variety of them out and writing them off as useless, having difficulty finding something adept at concealing her friend's tail without looking abnormal and drawing attention regardless. She settled for a beige dress that was a modest size, devoid of any frills or patterns that would make it difficult for her to blend in. "Here, this should work. Hurry and try it on."

Felicia snatched the dress and put it on over her current outfit, finding both that the dress was comfortable and that it perfectly concealed her tail. "This is perfect. Do you think anyone will find it weird?"

Silence passed for a moment, Clair hesitant to lie to her. "It's, um, better than walking around with a tail sticking out?"

"Well, great. At least it's comfortable while wearing the dress. Plenty of room to move it around."

"Do you wanna test to make sure there's plenty of room for it to keep growing with the dress on?" Clair asked, slyly smiling.

"No...? My tail is big enough as is, thanks."

"I was just thinking is all. Tried finding a dress in my favorite color, but there's just no...*blue* outfits."

Felicia glared at Clair as her hips uncontrollably shook, feeling as if a pair of hands were yanking her tail as hard as possible in order to force the growth. The pain was short lived as the large back half of the dress was giving her tail plenty of room to expand to for the future.

"Okay, honestly--while your tail is adorable and everything, it's kind of hard to avoid laughing at how every time it grows it sounds like you're stepping onto an old wooden staircase," Clair said, smilingly widely.

"But it sounds muffled now, right? The dress seemed like it was covering up a fair bit of the noise."

"It's better, but since the volume is seemingly based on how long your tail is before it starts growing again, it's going to become deafening eventually."

Felicia sighed. "I wanna be mad at you for making it bigger, but you made me realize that there's a new problem." She turned around, pointing to her back side. "Notice anything?"

Clair scanned across the dress looking for any oddities, spotting the white tip of Felicia's tail poking out of the bottom of the dress. "Oh, it's long enough that--"

"Yeah. Now I need a way to fix *this*."

Grabbing a thin rope sitting on a nearby shelf, Clair grabbed the bottom of the dress and began tying it to just above her ankle, tucking the end of the tail back into the dress before tying a knot. "You should be able to walk fine in that. Looks a little odd but uh, still. It's hidden for good now."

"It still feels fine, too. Can we go get lunch now? I need to do something to get my mind off of this for a bit."

Felicia felt uncomfortable during the walk to the lunchroom, darting her eyes back and forth across the hallway in search of anyone suspiciously staring at her, yet to her confusion there wasn't anybody who seemed to find her outfit strange. The two friends stood quietly in line until they could buy their lunches, finding a table on the outskirts of the large room.

"So what are you gonna do when you have to get ready for whatever you're doing in the play?" Clair mused when they sat down.

"What are you talking about?"

"That ain't gonna be your costume. You sure you're gonna be able to hide your tail in whatever it is you have to wear?"

Felicia's face turned white. "It, um...I don't know. What am I supposed to do if I have to wear something revealing?"

"Run away and tell them you can't perform? I'm sure there's a backup that can take your spot.

Felicia shook her head. "And let Victoria mock me for what she thinks is cold feet? I *have* to be there."

"As opposed to her mocking you relentlessly for having a tail, right?"

Resting her face on her hand, Felicia sighed and waited for the lunch hour to slowly tick by. As people began filtering out of the room, an unpleasant face walked up to their table. "You looking forward to watching me tonight?"

Victoria asked, smug at frustrating Felicia.

"I don't exactly have an unimportant role, you know," she retorted.

Victoria laughed at her pitiful response, sensing the resentment in her voice.

"Compared to me? Everything is unimportant."

Felicia clenched her fists on the table upon the creaking sound resurfacing.

The magic having had time to swell inside her body, her tail began growing at a faster pace than it had earlier in the day. The change in length was noticeable for Felicia, appearing nervous once the noise had stopped.

Noticing that her friend's tail was growing, Clair chimed in to defend Felicia.

"She ain't gonna be deterred by you, I don't know what you're trying to accomplish."

Victoria put her hands on her hips and leaned in closer, grinning with confidence. "I don't want her deterred. I want her to perform and be demoralized from the realization that she'll never be better than me."

"You're not exactly what's on my mind when it comes to the play this afternoon," Felicia said, confidently telling the truth.

Victoria squinted at Felicia before turning to the girl silently following her around. "Get me some water while I crush her spirit."

Felicia squirmed in her seat, her tail for the first time not elongated upon hearing a keyword. Pound after pound of weight was added as the entirety of her tail greatly thickened, the base of her tail stretching until it was short of half a foot wide while the center widened until it was over a foot across.

Felicia's tail continued to nestle snugly in her dress, the change in growth still leaving plenty of empty space for it to expand to in the future.

"This isn't the first time you've thought you could be better than me. Not the first play, not the first competition, not the first *anything*. And you know what has been the same each time?" She leaned back up and crossed her arms.

"You've failed to beat me. Every single time, you try as hard as you can. Every single time, you're too pathetic to come anywhere close to my greatness. But I'm sure glad you keep trying, because I don't think it will ever stop being entertaining watching you fall on your face, oblivious to your own worthlessness."

Her friend returned with a bottle of water and handed it to Victoria. "I look forward to you trying out for the next play, and the ones after that. I want to single handedly crush what little hope you have." She dropped the opened bottle on the table, splattering half of it on Felicia before turning and walking away.

Clair grabbed several napkins on the table to try and dry off her friend, who was shaking the table in rage. "C'mon Felicia, just put it out of your mind. You know she's acting insufferable just to get a reaction out of you."

Felicia snarled for several seconds, punching the table. "You know what? I don't care if I get rid of my tail before the play. I just want to figure out that damn book, because when I do, she will pay for everything she's put me through."

"Felicia, that blind vengeance is why you have a tail in the first place..."

"And not knowing how to use this magic. But when I do, ohhhh when I *do*, I'm going to turn around and destroy her. I've got a whole bunch of ideas lined up for when I figure this book out--horns, boned wings, webbed hair, a long and spiked neck, and the ugliest tail I can think of."

Clair stood up and grabbed Felicia's arm, dragging her out of the room. "We gotta find something to distract you and calm you down, it's really not good that you're agitated in this mindset."

"But Clair, I'm feel great! I'm going to go home tonight and figure out how to reveal Victoria as the monster she really is. And you know what the best part is? She doesn't know anything about this book. I'll keep her as a hideous beast, and if the magic wears off I'll just do it again. And again. *And again.*"

Clair dragged her friend into the library, hoping to kill time and calm her friend down from within. She brought them back to the same table in the back corner, the most isolated spot in the library with the large number of students studying within. "Felicia, are you crazy? You can't just do those things to a person, even if you think she deserves it!"

"Why not? You think I should just sit here and let her abuse me every damn day? I finally have the opportunity to do something about it once I learn how, I'm not going to just throw this book away."

Clair sighed, trying to think of a way to change the subject. "Well we've got nothing else to do til the play starts so let's find a way to spend the time, alright?"

"We can talk about ways to ruin Victoria's life."

"No Felicia, we're not going to talk about that. How about, uh, how about when back at lunch I noticed something strange. When...*she*...mentioned water, it didn't look like anything happened to you. Are we wrong about how the spells work?"

Felicia tensed up, not expecting her friend to cause her tail to extend further. Sweat built up on her face as she realized that the growth rate was gradually accelerating, Clair having caused it to grow half a foot in a matter of seconds. The creaking had become louder, barely muffled any longer by the dress, and the enhanced growth speed changed the sound to a higher pitch. Several people nearby turned their heads, alerted by the bizarre noise, before returning to their work. Once her tail stopped growing, Felicia patted the upper back side of her dress to gauge how much free space she still had, glaring at her friend.

"S-sorry! It's just, you didn't even react a couple minutes ago!" Clair said, covering her mouth apologetically.

"Because it wasn't growing longer, it was growing *wider*," she growled. "It just doesn't hurt when it does that, apparently. And do you really think I wanted to have a terrified expression when talking to that witch?"

"No, but I thought you'd have at least some reaction..."

"Well you're getting a reaction now, huh? I just need to get through the rest of this day quickly because my tail is growing a lot faster now."

"Really? Did you use more spells when I wasn't looking or something? It seemed manageable earlier, there's no reason for it to be speeding up all of a sudden."

"No, and I don't know why either. It's growing, like, twice as fast now. I sort of have the feeling that in a couple hours the speed is going to double again, and..." Felicia said, her face turning white. "It might get out of control. I just hope I can figure out what to do when I get home."

"I can help! You're gonna be fine in a couple hours, I'm sure of it."

"I really hope so. Last thing I want is for someone to make a report on the girl with a tail that blew up, you know?"

Felicia shuddered, feeling her tail thicken quicker and further than it had minutes ago. The center of her tail expanded to nearly a foot wide as the base stretched to over half of that, the free space in her dress running low as the tail widened to take up most of it. Felicia pressed against the back of her dress in worry, concerned with how little room was left and the greater weight piled on to her tail. She buried her head in her hands, muttering to herself.

"What's wrong? You didn't even say anything that could cause the growth."

"Yeah, I did. I'm an idiot, Clair."

Clair mulled on the statement for a few seconds. "Oh, r-right...they sound the same."

Felicia sighed and sat in silence, prodding the back of her dress every other minute and anxiously checking how much room was left. Clair kept looking up from her book every time every time Felicia pressed behind her, trying to hold back laughing at her. "How much room is left?"

"Not a lot. I don't know how much longer I can go on like this, especially if I'm stupid enough to make it grow on my own," Clair said, shaking her head.

"Good thing you'll be taking off that dress when you get into your costume!"

Felicia sunk into the chair as far as her large tail would let her, moaning in frustration. "I don't know if I can handle this play anymore."

"C'mon, you'll be fine. Just a quick two hours and then we can head home and figure things out."

Half an hour passed in silence, Felicia spending most of the time resting her head on the table, until students began filtering out of the library and into the noisy hallways. The pair remained silent as they walked towards the far end of the school where the auditorium was located, idling outside its large doors as small groups of people entered it.

"Good luck in there!" Clair said, trying to encourage her friend. "Despite the hell you've gone through, hopefully this'll all work out!"

"I sure hope so," Felicia said, hugging Clair. She walked through the open doors and into the auditorium, alone and with her confidence shaken.

Many groups of students stood in small groups around the seats, holding small props necessary for the play while conversing with each other.

Unfamiliar with most people that were performing, Felicia glanced around anxiously before proceeding up to the stage where the largest crowd was gathered. Stepping onto the stage, she was directed towards a line leading backstage where all of the actors within the play were to receive their costumes. Felicia obediently stood in line for several minutes, gradually working her way to the front, as the sounds of everyone talking was gradually drowned out by her own heartbeat. Her arms nervously shook as she moved closer to the front, her mind becoming more and more paranoid with getting through the final few hours of her day.

The stage director was handing costumes to each person as they reached the front of the line, the woman staring at Felicia for several seconds as she anxiously stared back, simply hoping to receive the costume in peace.

"Felicia, isn't that one of the dresses from our previous play? I thought we had those locked in the backup storeroom."

Felicia blinked rapidly, trying to think of a truthful excuse to defend herself.

"Uh, y-yeah it is, why?"

"Why are you casually wearing it around? Those costumes are school property, you can't wear them without permission."

There was a brief pause, Felicia clueless on what to say before blurting out the only thing she could think of. "I didn't know it was from the storeroom initially, I was just given it cause I needed something else to wear for most of the day."

Her tail began growing almost immediately, needing no time to react from the ridiculous excuse. Her dress was unable to cover up the incredible creaking sound, causing everyone near her to look at their feet out of concern that the wooden floor of the stage was about to collapse. Felicia's knees wobbled as her tail surged outward, curling around what little room was remaining in the dress, lengthening to fill up the entire space before ceasing. Several students standing behind Felicia were giving the back of her dress a curious eye, wondering why it was shifting around on its own. Felicia herself tried keeping a confident face, despite feeling abject horror that her tail was left without any more room to expand to and, undoubtedly, would begin testing the integrity of the dress.

The director rolled her eyes, barely believing Felicia. "Just leave it in the changing room when you switch into your costume for this play, alright? Now then..." she said, turning to the large rack of costumes at her side. "I know yours is buried in here somewhere. While I look for it, is there any particular reason why it looks like you dumped water all over that dress? You know how difficult these are to clean."

Felicia couldn't respond right away, her body quivering as her tail gradually grew further. Its rate of growth was dampened by having no free space available, yet it was undeterred as it gradually pushed the dress outward and quickly strained the fabric. The students behind her were further confused at the dress expanding at a gradual pace, the creaking overpowering the sound of the weak fabric coming to the point of tearing within seconds. Felicia could feel her tail on the verge of breaking out, fully panicked at the crowd around her that would see. She couldn't make up any more excuses, she knew she had to bluntly give the reason why her dress was still mildly soaked in water. "Victoria did it to me," Felicia said with a hint of ire.

The director turned towards Victoria, who was a short distance away talking to her friends. "Hey, Victoria! Did you really dump water all over Felicia?" she shouted, finding the costume and pulling it off the rack.

Victoria laughed, grinning maliciously. "Of course I didn't, what reason do I have to do that to her?"

A tense pause passed before Felicia felt her tail silently begin to expand wider. Without wasting a second, she snatched her costume out of the hands of the stage director and rushed over to the changing rooms far behind the

stage. Her pace slowed as her tail became insufferably large, legs wobbling as walking straight became harder.

Completely out of room and struggling to grow, seams and small frills began popping off of the dress as Felicia's tail ceaselessly enlarged, leaving a trail of fabric behind her. She reached an empty changing room out of breath, rushing inside and locking the door. Realizing her tail was still in the process of thickening and that the dress sounded as if it was ready to tear open any second, Felicia struggled to bend over and untie the rope around her ankles to open up the dress and release the tail. The motion of leaning over, Felicia quickly regretting, gave her tail enough force to shred through the delicate dress and free itself, leaving Felicia bent over and paralyzed with horror. Her tail unfurled and curved upwards, its full size having reached nearly four feet long and the latter half of her tail nearly half that wide.

Felicia remained in her bent position for nearly a minute before being able to breathe normally, thankful that everyone talking had covered up the sound of her tail destroying the dress. Standing back up, Felicia slowly turned around to examine her large, waving tail, wishing she could admire it the same way her friend did. The white streaks appeared larger as a great series of spiraled patterns adorned her tail, running all around the thick latter half. She shyly rubbed the base of her spine where her tail was still over half a foot wide, shuddering at the idea of how uncomfortable it would be to curl her tail back up.

She took off the destroyed dress and hung it on the wall, positioning it so that the torn open lower half wasn't immediately visible. Removing her dress costume from its hangar, Felicia struggled to put it on with such a massive tail blocking her way. After it was snugly fitted upon her, she looked back and considered how to deal with her tail sticking out of the immaculate bottom of her dress. Tying the dress to her legs would be impossible, knowing that the stage director would get suspicious and order her to have the dress appear normal. Felicia sighed with disappointment, the new dress feeling considerably larger than the one she had worn for part of the day and seeming perfect to conceal her tail for just a little longer. An idea sparked in her mind as she grabbed the rope her friend had used earlier and, with her other hand, struggled to fold her tail in half. Once she had done so and given the appearance that her tail was considerably shorter than its true length,

Felicia tucked it under the dress and used part of the rope to tie the fold so her tail couldn't unfurl back to its normal length. With the remaining segment of rope, she tied her tail to her thighs, preventing it from being able to do more than wiggle back and forth.

Once Felicia had finished tying the knots as tight as she could, she let go of her tail and let the large blue dress fall down to its naturally appearing state. Staring into the mirror in the changing room caused Felicia to sigh in relief, as her tail was indiscernible while concealed by the dress. No bulge was showing, no signs of movement could be seen, and the dress appeared no different from other actors who were wearing similar outfits.

She left the changing room, content and eager to get through the play and end her day.

"Where's the dress you were wearing earlier?" the director asked as Felicia passed by her on the way to the stage.

"I, uh, left it in one of the changing rooms. I can get it later," she replied, rushing towards the group of students waiting for the play to begin once the director turned away.

Half an hour passed as preparations completed and students shuffled into the auditorium and filled up the seats. Felicia paced anxiously in her position on the stage as stage hands placed all the necessary props into position. She couldn't help but glance over at Victoria and her friends, hatred building within her the longer she stared. She was lucky that the deafening murmuring of the audience drowned out the small talk happening backstage, causing Felicia to be unable to hear Victoria making fun of her and laugh at the insults her friends were creating.

The lights dimmed, causing everyone on stage to move to their proper positions for the play to start. Victoria took to the center of the stage, bathing in the spotlights as she acted with great fervor, reveling in all eyes in the audience being drawn straight at her. Felicia stood towards the side of the stage, situated in a prop house and conversing with several other actors. Her role, much to her disdain, involved interacting with Victoria constantly throughout the play. While Victoria remained the main star of the show, Felicia ended up joining Victoria's character in the story and supported her. The longer the play went on the more vicious their conversations became, shifting from sounding like a bitter rivalry to Felicia growling as if she were ready to tackle Victoria and fight her out of sheer rage.

The play paused at the halfway point, providing a short break for all of the actors as the curtain fell. Felicia wasted no time walking as far away from Victoria as she could, idling around a group of students with minor roles. "Alright everybody!" the stage director said, clapping her hands loudly to gather attention. "I need all the stage hands to setup for the second act, we've got two minutes to get it done before we're live again!"

Felicia mustered a straight face, fighting through the pain of feeling her tail grow longer. The dress was poor at concealing the escalating creaking noise, causing everyone backstage to turn their heads around at the sound breaking the silence. Felicia too whipped her head back and forth to appear normal, her breath stuttering as her tail became half a foot longer. The ropes were barely holding after the sudden growth, compressing the size of her tail to the point where Felicia was in pain by simply walking around. She stood up straight with feigned confidence, the play nearing its conclusion once the break was over.

The play continued, Felicia lit with ire the more she had to talk with Victoria. Victoria's lip twitched every time they looked at each other, her tone of voice changing throughout the remainder of the play to sound as if she was taunting Felicia. Victoria flaunted in the center of the stage after abandoning Felicia's character and leaving her for dead, Felicia laying on the stage motionless a fair distance behind Victoria. She laid with her eyes faintly open, staring as hatred burned in her. Victoria slightly altered her lines in front of the audience, bringing attention to how terrible and worthless Felicia's character was. Laying on the floor, Felicia knew she was referring to herself rather than her persona. With just minutes left until the play concluded, Felicia closed her eyes and continued plotting methods for her revenge. There were so many ways to turn Victoria into a hideous monster, so many ways to humiliate her in front of the entire school and ruin her popularity. Just several more minutes, Felicia imagined as the raging thoughts clouded her head, until she could finally escape the school and get to work learning the magic properly.

The music ending on a high note as Victoria gave off her final line prompted Felicia to stand back up and take her place at the front of the stage alongside all of the other actors in the play, begrudgingly standing next to Victoria as was rehearsed. Once in position, color drained from Felicia's face as she shivered with horrible anticipation, having the dawning realization as to what

happens after a performance. The crowd in front of her began cheering, forming a roaring applause that shook the stage. Felicia stood in place, her body quivering and her legs buckling, as she tried in desperation to stop the effect of the spells she had cursed herself with. She grit her teeth, the entire lower half of her body shaking back and forth, as the crowd's cheering became louder every second. Unable to resist any longer, Felicia dropped to her hands and knees as the creaking began anew, gradually attracting the attention of everyone on the stage. The power of the crowd propelled her tail to faster than it ever had during the day, causing Felicia to moan loudly in pain as her tail stretched as far as the knotted rope allowed it to. Felicia shook the lower half of her body faster and faster as the pain built up, most of the crowd beginning to quiet down and stare at Felicia's bizarre action at the center of the stage. Seconds later the rope snapped, prompting a surprised yelp from Felicia as her tail burst out from under her dress and shot upwards to its full size. There was a tense silence as the crowd watched in confusion, Felicia's tail halting its growth once it had risen to nearly ten feet tall and towered over the girl it was attached to. The crowd gawked at the tail, staring at the massive white swirls looping around the center and thick white streaks extending to the base, gradually realizing that it was no costume.

Felicia struggled to push herself off the floor, her face bright red in embarrassment as she stared at the silence audience. The only thought in her mind was to run away, and after coming to her senses she tried turning around quickly, only to be thrown off balance by her massive tail and stumble to the side. Laughter began to rise from the audience and everyone on stage, becoming louder as more people joined in to mock Felicia as she desperately limped towards the backdoor of the auditorium. She was forced back onto the ground, briefly, as the roaring laughter caused her tail to resume its rapid growth and creak louder. Her unrestrained tail was simultaneously growing longer and wider, the process of not painful enough to make walking impossible. The weight of Felicia's tail impaired her movement the closer she got to the door, limping through it and slamming it shut to drown out the sound of laughter as she wobbled down the hallway as quick as she could muster. Clair, having watched the spectacle transpire from the audience, was staring in despair at her friend. While Felicia was attempting to escape, Clair left her chair and ran out of the auditorium to find her friend and console her. She rushed to the hallway that the backdoor stage lead to, finding no sign of

Felicia. Clair ran down the hallway further, glancing along the walls for any signs of where she was hiding, interrupted by the faint sound of a door slamming from an adjacent hallway. Darting through a side hallway, Clair reached the door she thought she had heard and slowly opened it, revealing Felicia lying against the back wall, burying her face in her tail.

Clair knocked softly on the door to grab her attention before closing and locking it, kneeling down to console her friend. "I'm here now, it's gonna be alright. Nobody else is gonna see what you look like."

Felicia paused her sobbing to turn and look at Clair. "Everybody has already seen me! Who is going to forget *this*!?"

Clair stared at the massive tail for a moment, looking up to see that even the ten foot tall room was unable to comfortably accommodate it. The tail rubbed against the ceiling and curled back downwards, the white tip of it dangling above Felicia's head. Looking back down, the base of the tail was seemingly as wide as Felicia's rear from Clair's perspective, and as most of the tail was nearly four feet wide, Clair was left surprised that her friend was even capable of moving with its weight. Felicia leaned back against her tail, defeated.

"I can barely move at this point, and now I'm terrified of getting near anybody. I don't know what I'm supposed to do," Felicia said as Clair kneeled back down and rummaged through Felicia's open bag, finding the magical tome. "I haven't suffered enough?" Felicia said as tears streamed down her face. "You want to make this thing even bigger?"

Thinking back to the spells her friend had spouted throughout the day, Clair compared them to examples listed in the pages of the dusty tome. Amused at her suspicions and against Felicia's will, she attempted a spell of her own.

"Humbled by the appearance of her very own tail, vanish from Felicia without so much as a wail."

"Great, now it'll grow when I--ack!" Felicia yelled, flinging forward onto her hands and knees. Her body faintly slid forward on the floor as her tail no longer felt as if it were being yanked, instead being forcefully pushed.

Moaning for over a minute, Felicia's tail gradually receded until it had entirely disappeared, leaving her staring at Clair in bewilderment. "How!? Why didn't you tell me how to do that sooner!?"

Opening the book, Clair pointed to a random example. "You kept saying everything in the wrong order, see? I guess that's why it was backfiring on you all day."

Felicia rubbed the back of her spine, adjusting to being tailless for the first time in hours, speechless. She snatched the book out of Clair's hands and flipped through the pages she had used herself, only confirming she had been trying to cast spells in error the whole day. "I...I..."

"So we'll just put that back in the library and hopefully in a few weeks everyone will have forgotten this ever happened. Or, since you can lie again, could pass it off as a prank or--"

"No! We know how to use magic, think of what we can do with it!" Felicia said, getting back on her feet with a glare in her eyes.

"Felicia, I know all you want is revenge, but there's better ways than dabbling with something we can't reliably control."

"But you fixed my tail! We can control it! You're not gonna stop me from permanently humiliating Victoria, not after everything I've suffered!"

Clair stood against the door, staring sternly at Felicia. "I'm not letting you leave this room until you give up your aspirations for revenge. I'm not going to allow you to potentially hurt yourself out of petty spite."

Felicia leaned against the wall, too exhausted to argue with her friend. She begrudgingly let Clair take the book back yet, in the back of her mind, her dreams of revenge lingered. Felicia knew she could convince Clair to give the tome back eventually or, if she had to, steal it back. She could not be deterred from punishing Victoria, no matter how long it would take.